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NSC BRIEFING

8 November 1954

## SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Reactions to General Collins' mission vary.
  - A. Paris officials welcome it; hope US support for Diem waning.

25X1

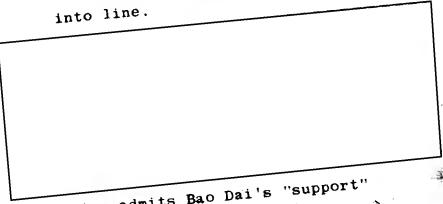
- C. General Ely feared mission would appear as US intent "takeover"
- D. But later his deputy described it as logical move.
- E. Added, French position is: Diem must make peace with army, get capable interior minister (no doubt Tam)
- II. Bao Dai still very much in the act.
  - A. Saw Collins mission useful to demand liem be more co-operation

State Department review completed

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Says he is father of "naughty В. children" who must be brought



- Diem admits Bao Dai's "support" D. has large price tag.
- Meanwhile Buu Hoi build-up getting III. bigger.
  - French press giving him big play.
  - Has backing of some of Mendes' В. orincipal advisers.

p	rincipal	advi	sers.			
	1 2000	ible	French	motives	for	

IV. Several possible French moti backing Buu Hoi.

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- A. One may be keep pot boiling, leave room for maneuver.
- B. More important, Buu Hoi's background jibes with French desires get along with Viet Minh.
- C. Buu Hoi "incredibly naive," according Heath, thus probably easily manipulated.
- D. Diem describes him as not immoral, but ammoral, a "seive for money," with two French and other mistresses.
- E. Told Diem year ago he for Viet
  Minh because it efficient.